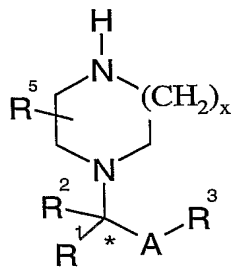
Claims:

1. A compound according to Formula I:



I

and pharmaceutically and/or veterinarily acceptable derivatives thereof, wherein:

R^1 is H;

R^2 is aryl, het, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, $(CH_2)_z$aryl or R^4, wherein each of the cycloalkyl, aryl, het and R^4 groups is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$, C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkyl-S-, $C_{1-4}alkylNR^{10}R^{11}$ and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

or R^1 and R^2, together with the carbon atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing at least one N, O or S heteroatom;

where R^1 and R^2 are different, * represents a chiral centre;

R^3 is aryl, het or R^4, each optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, het, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$, C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkyl-S-, $C_{1-4}alkylNR^{10}R^{11}$ and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^4 is a phenyl group fused to a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic group, or a phenyl group fused to a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing at least one N, O or S heteroatom;

R^5 is H or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{10} and R^{11} are the same or different and are independently H or C_{1-4}alkyl;

A is a C_{1-3}alkylene chain which is optionally substituted by OH, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-4}alkoxy;

x is an integer from 1 to 3;

y is 1 or 2;

z is an integer from 1 to 3;

aryl is phenyl, naphthyl, anthracyl or phenanthryl; and

het is an aromatic or non-aromatic 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which contains at least one N, O or S heteroatom, optionally fused to a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic group or a second 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which contains at least one N, O or S heteroatom,

provided that when R^1 is H, R^2 is phenyl, A is CH_2 and x is 1, R^3 is not 3-hydroxyphenyl or 3-(C_{1-4}alkoxy)phenyl.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is H.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein R^2 is aryl, het or C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl.

4. A compound according to Claim 3, wherein R^2 is aryl optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl.

5. A compound according to Claim 4, wherein R^2 is phenyl optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$,

$CON(H)C_{1-6}alkyl$, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-$C_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$-$C_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$-$C_{1-4}alkoxy$, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and $C_{1-4}alkyl$-S-$C_{1-4}alkyl$.

6. A compound according to any preceding claim, wherein R^3 is aryl or R^4, each optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from $C_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-6}alkoxy$, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}alkyl$, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-$C_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$-$C_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$-$C_{1-4}alkoxy$, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and $C_{1-4}alkyl$-S-$C_{1-4}alkyl$.

7. A compound according to Claim 6, wherein R^3 is phenyl optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from $C_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-6}alkoxy$, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}alkyl$, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-$C_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$-$C_{1-6}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$-$C_{1-4}alkoxy$, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and $C_{1-4}alkyl$-S-$C_{1-4}alkyl$.

8. A compound according to any preceding claim, wherein R^5 is H or $C_{1-6}alkyl$.

9. A compound according to any preceding claim, wherein A is a methylene (i.e. $-CH_2-$) group optionally substituted by OH.

10. A compound according to any preceding claim, wherein x is 1.

11. A compound according to Claim 1 which is (+) or (-)-1-[2-(2-Ethoxyphenyl)-1-phenylethyl]piperazine.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

13. A compound according to any one of Claims 1-11 for use as a medicament.

14. Use of a compound according to any one of Claims 1-11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disorder in which the regulation of monoamine transporter function in mammals is implicated.

15. Use of a compound according to any one of Claims 1-11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disorder in which the regulation of serotonin or noradrenaline in mammals is implicated.

16. Use according to Claim 15, wherein the regulation of serotonin and noradrenaline is implicated.

17. Use of a compound according to any one of Claims 1-11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of urinary disorders, depression, pain, premature ejaculation, ADHD or fibromyalgia in mammals.

18. Use of a compound according to Claim 17, for the treatment of urinary incontinence, such as GSI or USI , in mammals.

19. A method of treatment of a disorder in which the regulation of monoamine transporter function is implicated which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of Claims 1-11 to a patient in need of such treatment.

20. A method of treatment of a disorder in which the regulation of serotonin or noradrenaline is implicated which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of Claims 1-11 to a patient in need of such treatment.

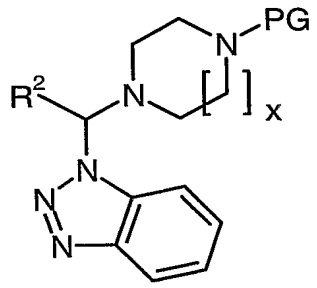
21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein the regulation of serotonin and noradrenaline is implicated.

22. A method of treatment of urinary disorders, depression, pain, premature ejaculation, ADHD or fibromyalgia, which comprises

administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of Claims 1-11 to a patient in need of such treatment.

23. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the urinary disorder is urinary incontinence, such as GSI or USI.

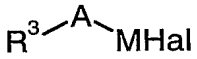
24. A process for preparing a compound according to any one of Claims 1-11 comprising reacting a compound of Formula III



(III)

wherein R2 and x are as defined in any of Claims 1 to 11 and PG is a protecting group;

with a compound of Formula IV



(IV)

wherein R3 and A are as defined in any of Claims 1 to 11, M is a metal selected from Zn and Mg and Hal is a halogen atom selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine;

and deprotecting the resultant compound.